

April Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

April 2010 will be remembered for the amount of warmth that occurred during the month. Temperatures averaged between 6.5 and almost 8 degrees above normal at most sites across the forecast area. This warmth was significant enough to push April 2010 into the top 2 warmest Aprils of all time since records have been kept at all of our official climate sites (Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Muskegon). Precipitation across the area was around normal with departures ranging from around an inch above normal to an inch below normal. The wettest areas were down south, while the driest areas were up north.

Location		Temperature (degrees F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	<i>Reported</i>	53.6	3.81	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	46.3	3.48	2.8
	<i>Departure</i>	+7.3	+0.33	-2.8
Lansing	<i>Reported</i>	52.4	2.49	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	45.5	3.09	2.5
	<i>Departure</i>	+6.9	-0.60	-2.5
Muskegon	<i>Reported</i>	51.5	2.15	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	44.9	2.91	3.1
	<i>Departure</i>	+6.6	-0.76	-3.1

Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation, and snowfall for April 2010 in Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Muskegon.

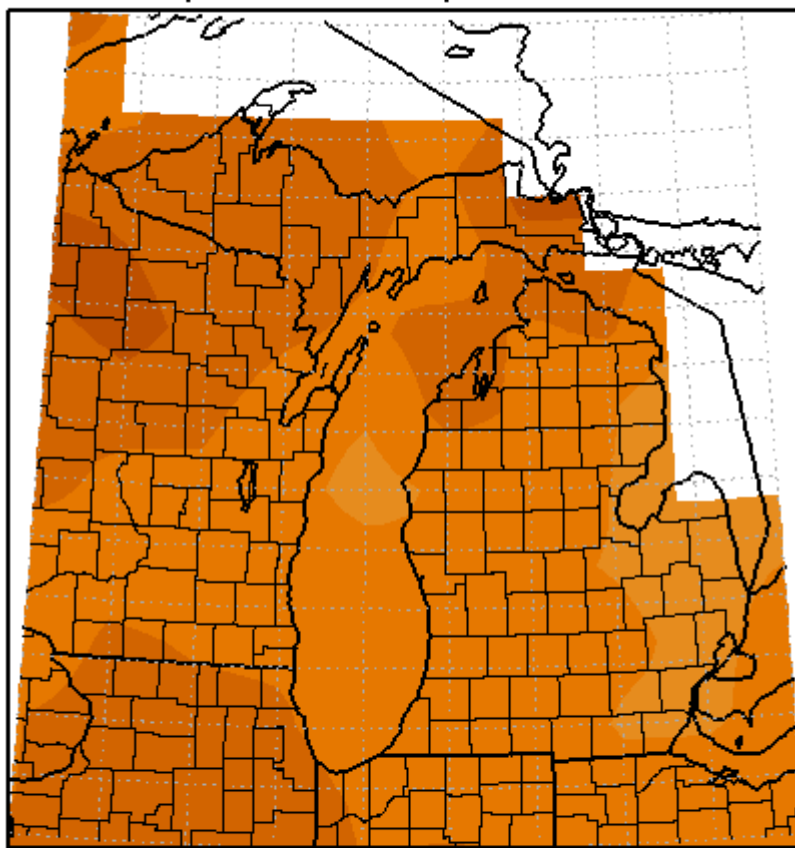
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Temperature Summary for April:

April started off with quite a warm spell, with temperatures reaching 80 degrees across most inland areas of Lower Michigan. Temperatures moderated a little, cooling off into the 60s and 70s through the 7th. These temperatures were still much above normal and helped to accelerate the beginning of the growing season across the area by at least a couple of weeks.

The early start to the growing season then led to numerous frost and/or freeze events as temperatures cooled back down closer to normal for April. A couple more very warm periods then occurred during the month, including the 14th - 15th, and the 29th – 30th. The very warm weather combined with gusty winds and a dry air mass to produce a few days of elevated fire danger across the area, especially from the 1st through the 2nd, and on the 15th.

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010



NOAA Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Figure 1: Average temperature departure from normal during April 2010.

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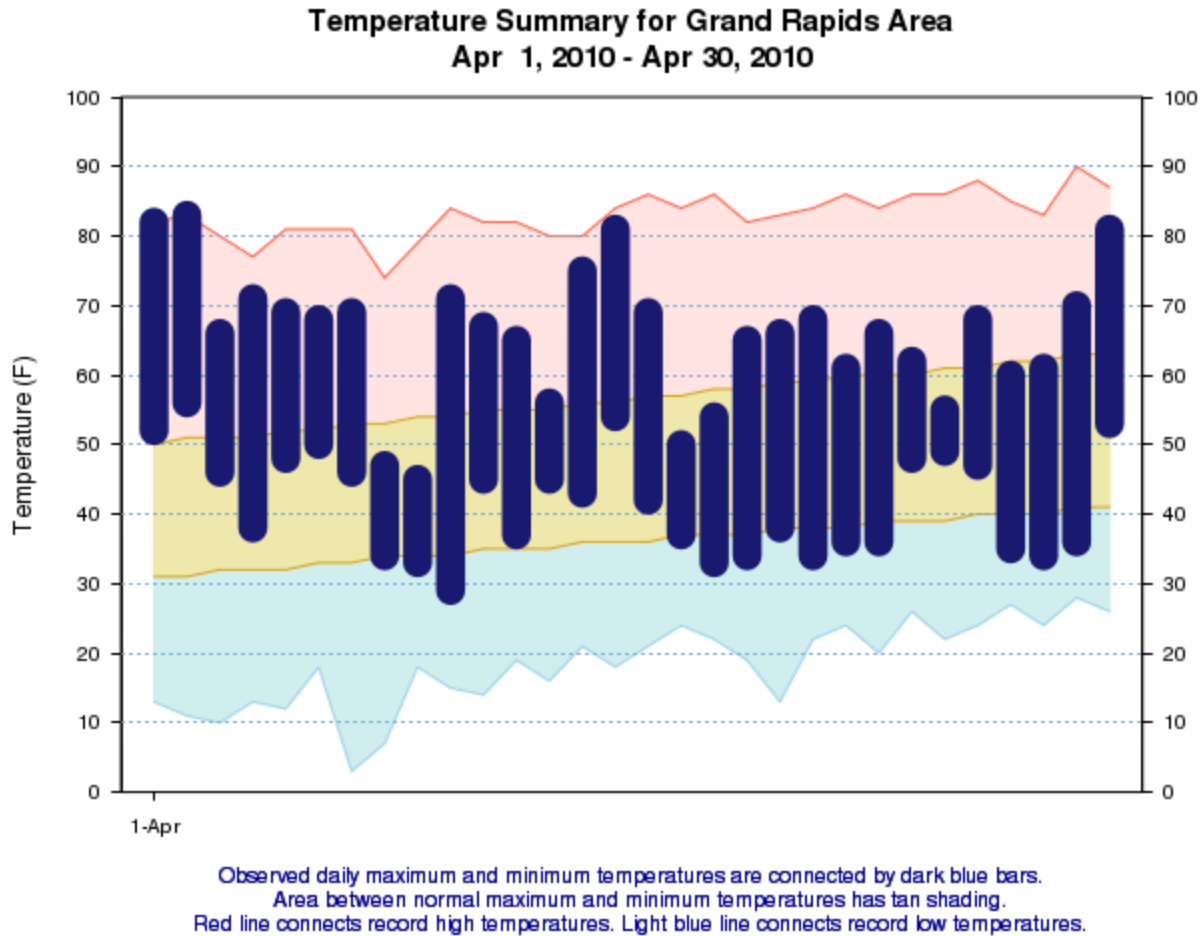
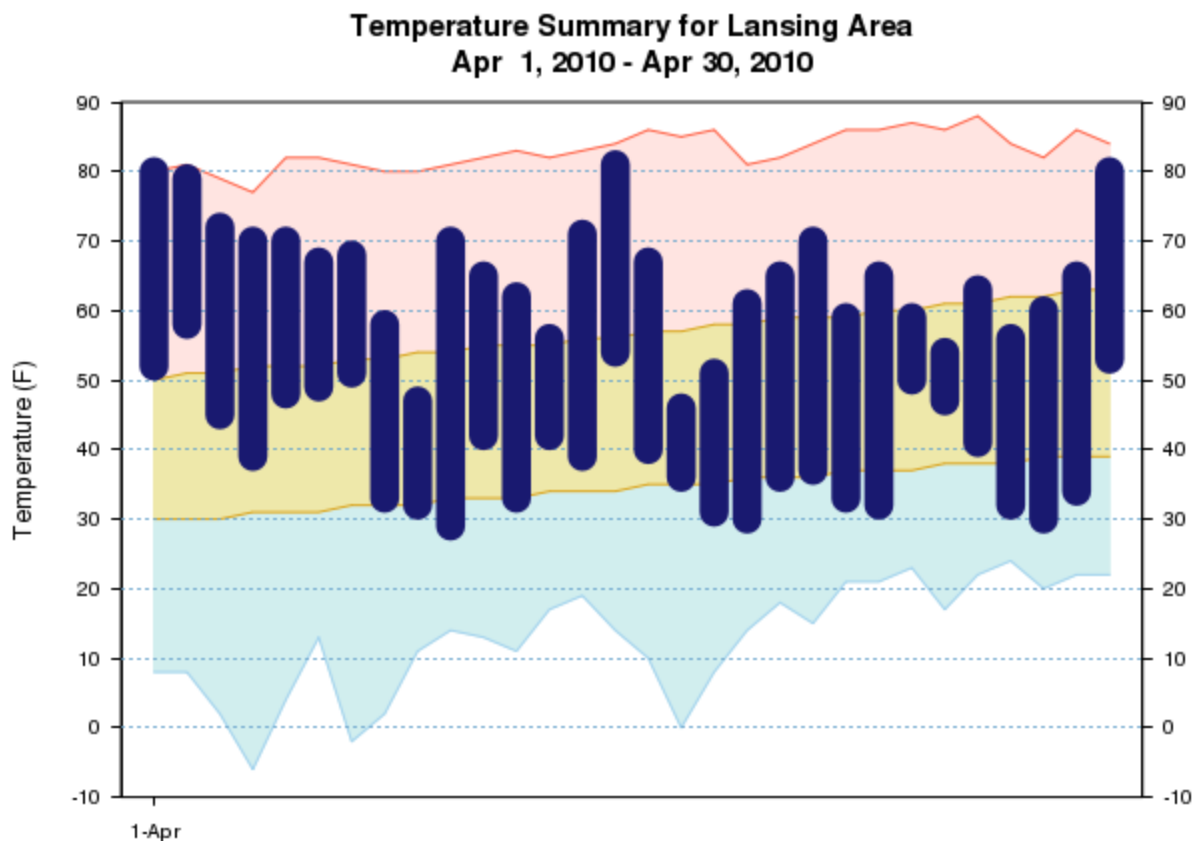


Figure 2: Observed temperatures at the G.R. Ford International Airport. Dark blue bars are the temperature range for each day. The central colored strip indicates the normal range of temperatures. Record high and low temperatures are indicated in the top colored strip and the bottom colored strip, respectively.

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Observed daily maximum and minimum temperatures are connected by dark blue bars.
Area between normal maximum and minimum temperatures has tan shading.
Red line connects record high temperatures. Light blue line connects record low temperatures.

Figure 3: As in Figure 2, except for the Lansing/Capital City airport.

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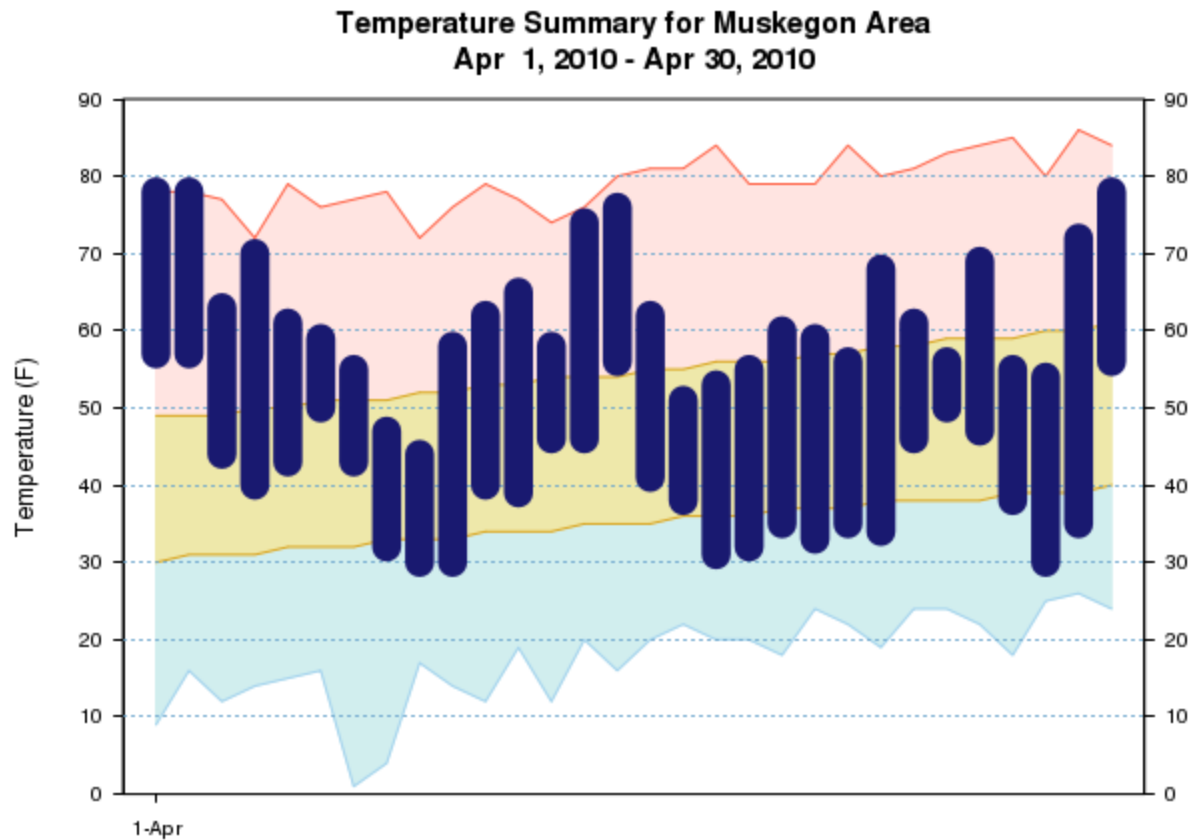


Figure 4: As in Figure 3, except for the Muskegon County airport.

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Precipitation Summary for April:

Most of the precipitation that fell during the month came during the period from the night time hours of the 4th through the morning of the 7th. It was during this period in which Lower Michigan saw its only severe weather of the month. A series of waves of showers and thunderstorms moved through the area during this period.

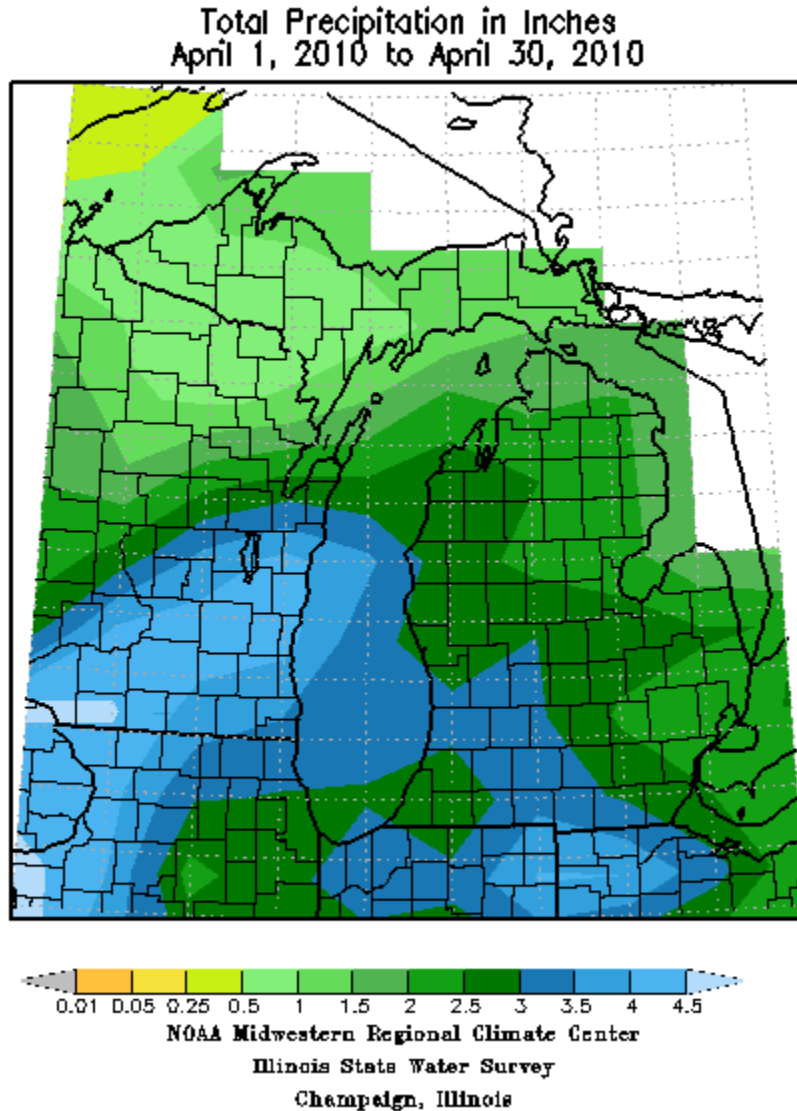


Figure 5: Total precipitation for April 2010.

Total precipitation amounts were the highest for the southwest half of the forecast area.

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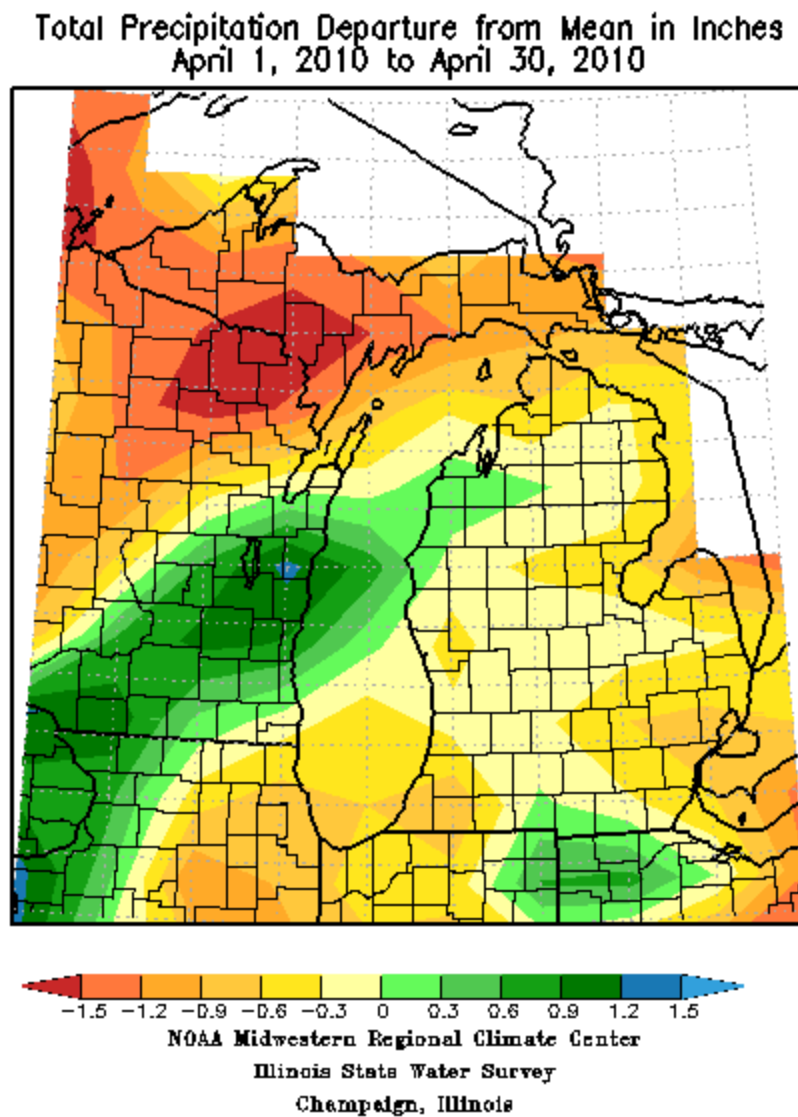


Figure 6: Precipitation departure from normal during April 2010.

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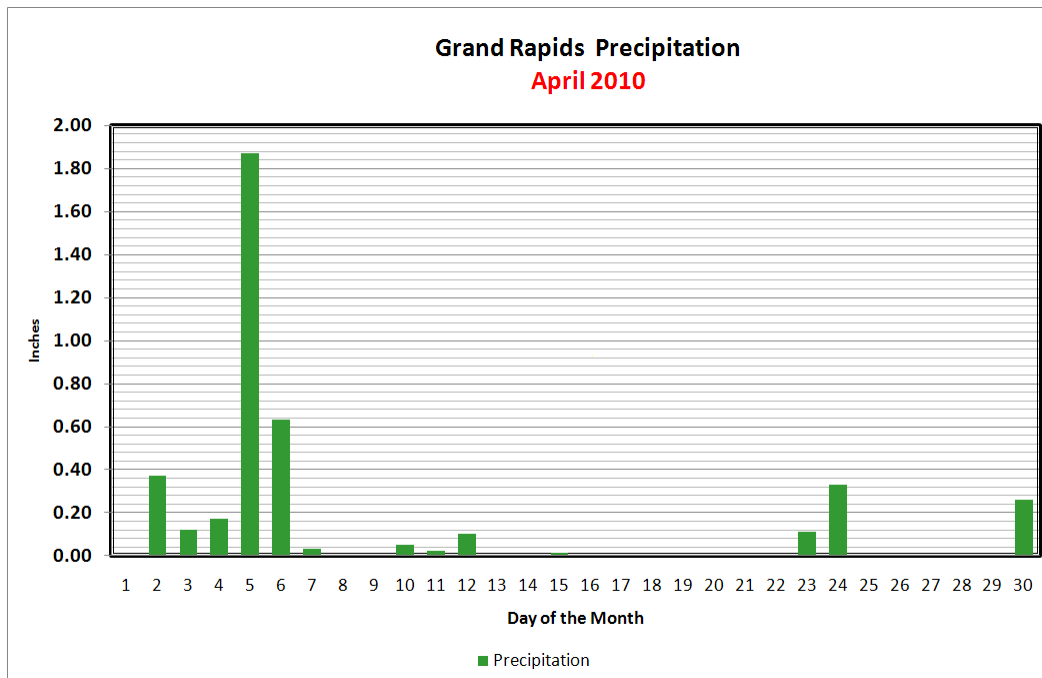


Figure 7: Daily precipitation in inches for April 2010 at the G.R. Ford International Airport.

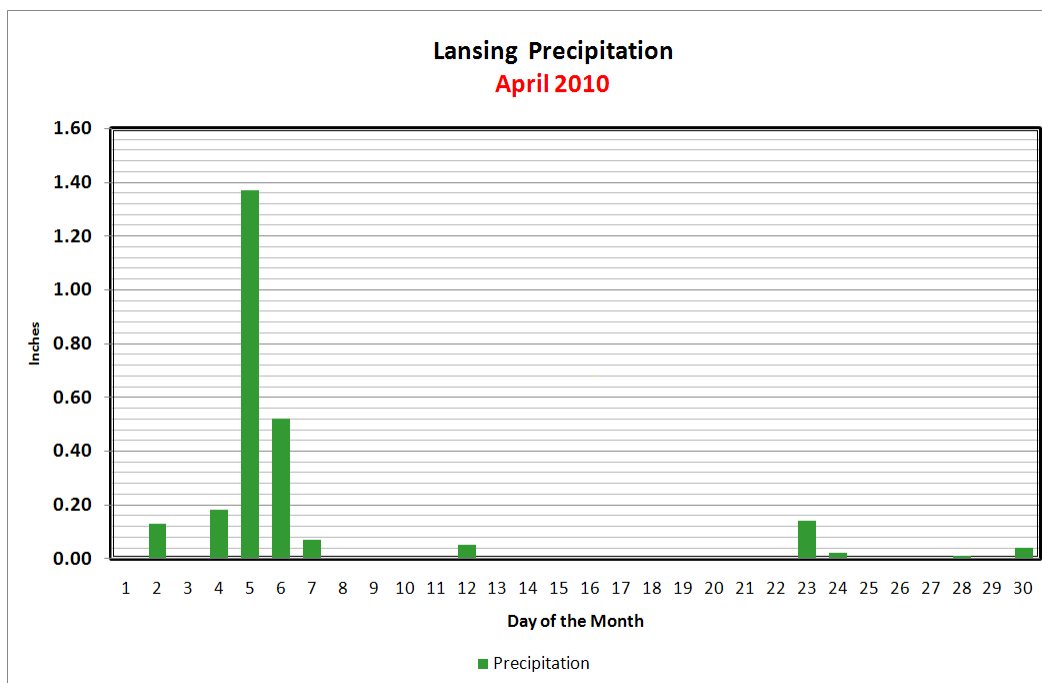


Figure 8: As in Figure 7, except for the Lansing Capital City Airport.

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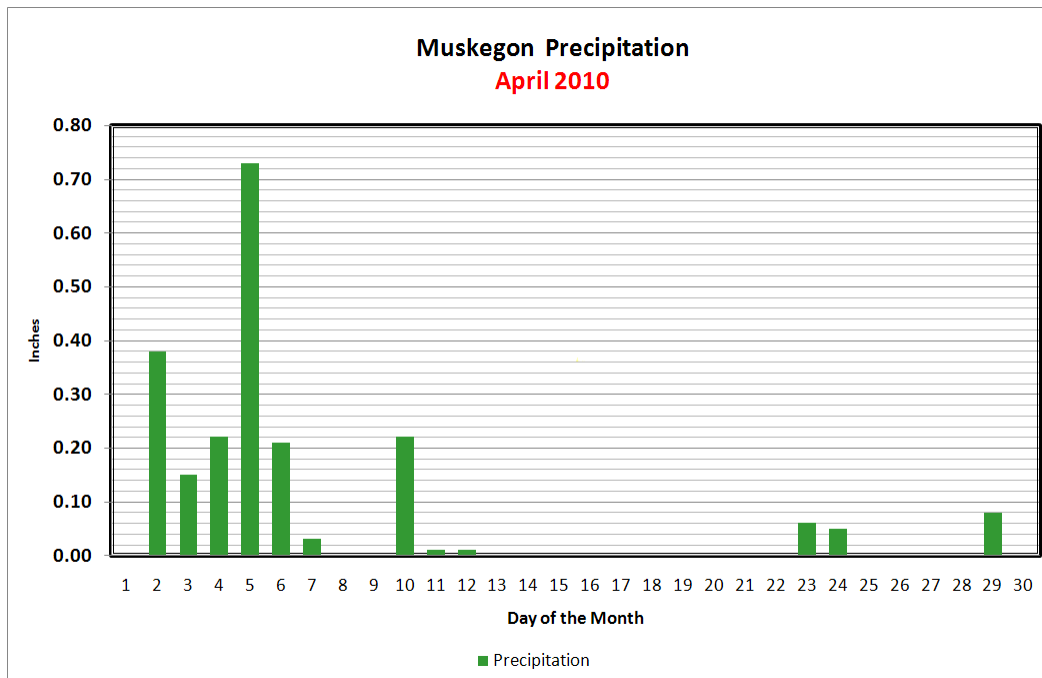


Figure 9: As in Figure 7, except for the Muskegon County Airport.

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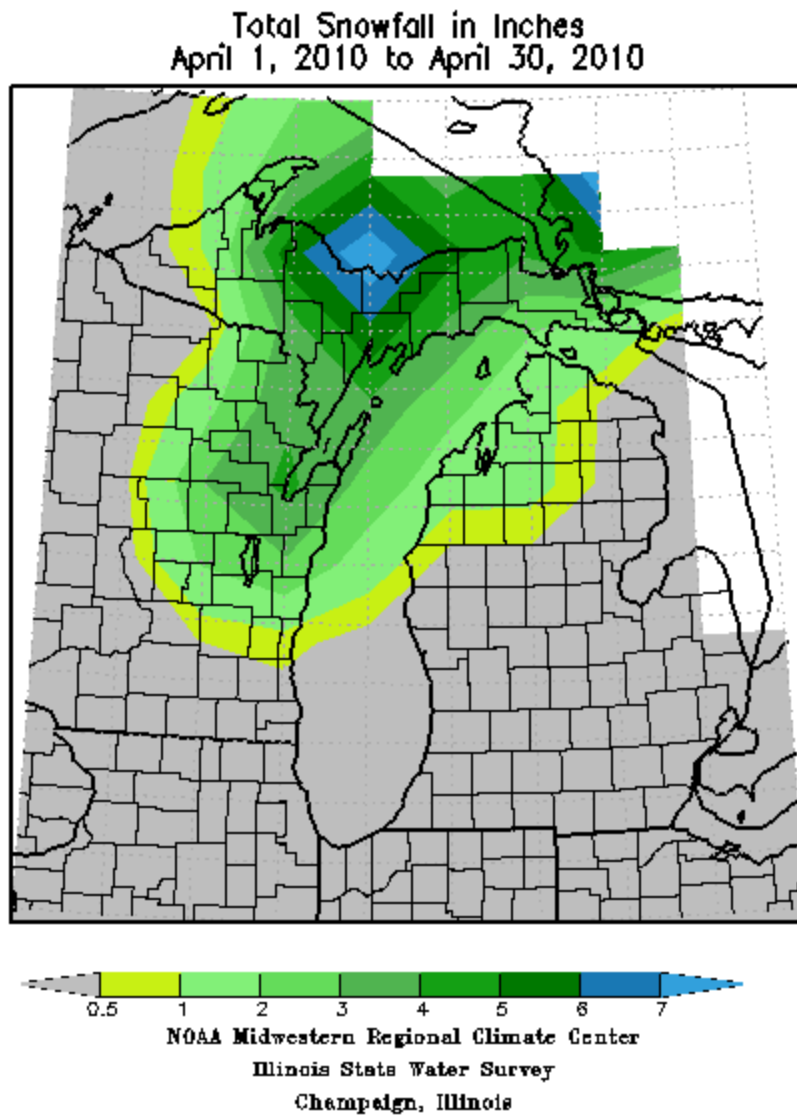


Figure 10: The total snowfall for April 2010.

Most locations across the forecast area saw only a trace of snow for the month.

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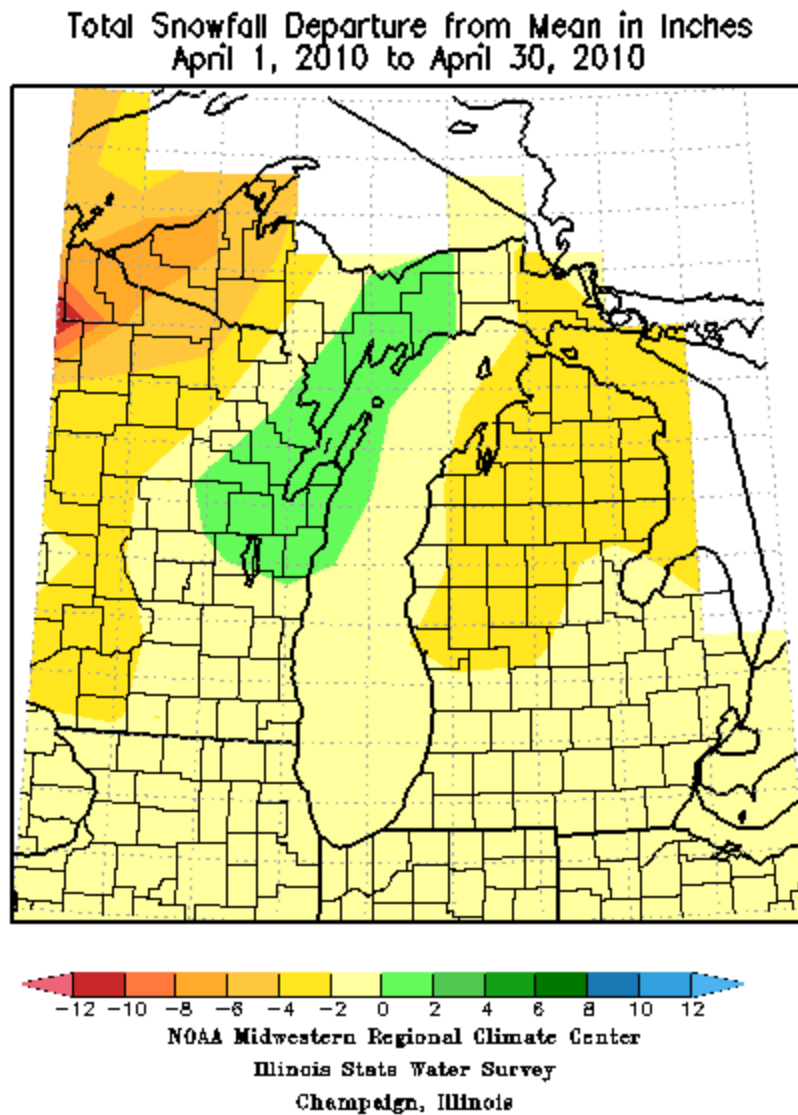


Figure 11: Snowfall departure from normal for April 2010.

Snowfall for April 2010 was up to 4 inches below normal for the month.

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Severe Weather Summary for April:

Gusty winds to 80 mph occurred near Vicksburg in Kalamazoo County on the night of the 5th. Numerous reports of hail were also reported, with the largest being a report of 1.50 inches (ping-pong size) during the very early morning hours of the 7th in the Village of Paris in Mecosta County.

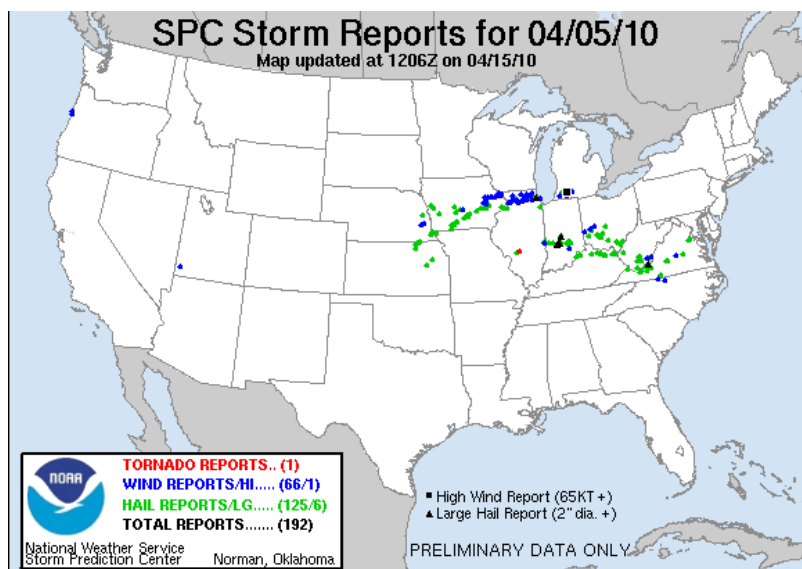


Figure 12: Severe Weather reports for April 5th, 2010.

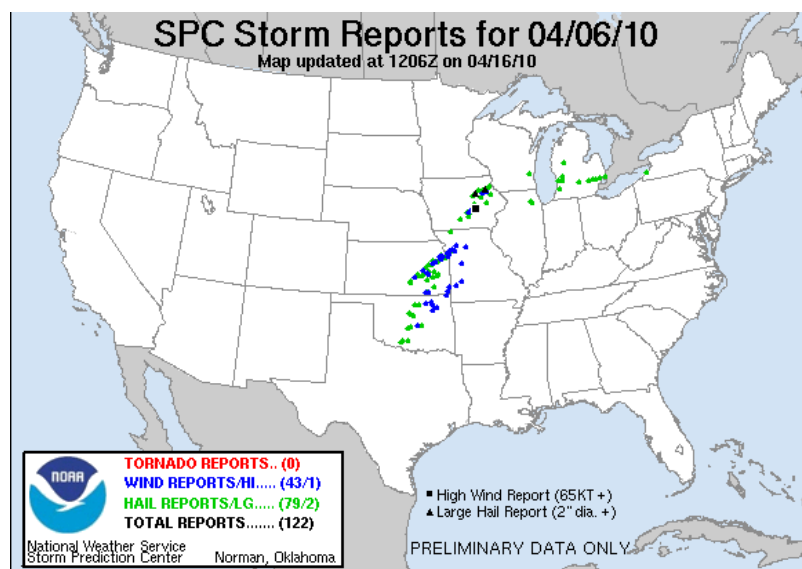


Figure 13: Severe Weather reports for April 6th, 2010.